

Appl. No. 10/016,413
Amdt Dated Feb. 26, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 26, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer enclosure comprising:
- a base comprising opposite front and rear plates, the rear plate forming a bent flange at a side thereof, a plurality of fixing tabs being formed on the bent flange and on the rear plate near the bent flange, the fixing tabs cooperatively defining a receiving space therebetween, an opening and a plurality of first locking slots being defined in the rear plate at the receiving space;
 - a locking bar vertically movably received in the receiving space, a plurality of second locking slots being defined in the locking bar ~~and~~ corresponding to the first locking slots of the rear plate, an arm portion ~~being formed~~ at a top of the locking bar, a blocking section being arranged on the arm portion, an operating tab extending from the locking bar and being received in the opening of the ~~base rear plate~~;
 - a side panel bridging side edges of the front and rear plates, the side panel comprising a plurality of bent tabs received in the first and second locking slots; and
 - a top panel bridging top edges of said front, rear plates and side panel, said top panel detachably attached to at least one of the ~~front-and-side plates, rear plates and side panel~~, the top panel comprising a catch ~~snappingly engaged~~ engaging the arm portion between the rear plate and the blocking section of said arm portion of the locking bar, thereby retaining the attachment of the top panel to the ~~at least one of the front-and-side plates, rear plates and side panel until released by vertically moving the locking bar and arm portion away from the top panel to release the catch.~~

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Claim 2 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locking bar is connected to the base by an elastic member.

Claim 3 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 2, wherein the elastic member is a spring.

Claim 4 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 2, wherein a retaining tab is formed on the bent flange above the fixing tabs of the bent flange, a connecting tab is formed on the locking bar, one end of the elastic member is clasped to the retaining tab, and an opposite end of the elastic member is engaged with the connecting tab.

Claim 5 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pair of latches is formed at a rear portion of the top panel, and wherein a pair of cutouts is defined in an upper portion of the rear plate, the cutouts receiving the latches.

Claim 6 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base further comprises bottom and side plates cooperating with the front and rear plates, and the side and top panels to define a space therebetween, and a disk drive bracket is received in said space of the base with a sidewall spanning between the front and rear plates.

Claim 7 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 6, wherein the side panel is opposite and parallel to the side plate of the base.

Claim 8 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the side panel forms a plurality of hooks at top and bottom peripheral flanges thereof, the hooks engaging with the bottom plate of the base and the sidewall of the disk drive bracket.

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Claim 9 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 6, wherein a pair of locating holes is defined in the front plate, and the top panel comprises a pair of posts at a front portion thereof, the posts being received in the locating holes respectively.

Claim 10 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 6, wherein a plurality of apertures is defined in both upper portions of the side plate of the base and the sidewall of the disk drive bracket, and a plurality of clasps is formed at opposite sides of the top panel, the clasps releasably engaging in the apertures.

Claim 11 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of the apertures is generally L-shaped and has a front portion and a rear portion, and each of the clasps enters into the front portion and engages in the rear portion of a corresponding aperture.

Claim 12 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an operating block secured to the operating tab of the locking bar.

Claim 13 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 12, wherein a locking tab is bent from the rear plate at one side extremity of the opening of the rear plate.

Claim 14 (original): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 13, wherein the locking tab defines a first locking hole, the operating tab defines a second locking hole, and the operating blocking defines a third locking hole aligned with the first and second locking holes, for allowing the operating tab and the operating block to be locked to the locking tab.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 10, wherein a pair of flanges extends inwardly from upper edges of the side plate of

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the base and the sidewall of the disk drive bracket, and the apertures are defined in a junction of the flange of the side plate and the side plate itself, and a junction of the flange of the sidewall and the sidewall itself.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer enclosure comprising:

- a base comprising a bottom plate, a side plate, and opposite front and rear plates extending perpendicularly from three contiguous sides of the bottom plate;
- a side panel releasably attached to the base with a plurality of engaging devices releasably engaging with ~~at least one side edge~~ side edges of the front, rear and bottom plates;
- a top panel releasably attached to the base with a plurality of latch devices engaging with ~~at least one top edge~~ top edges of the front, rear and side plates; and
- a locking mechanism attached to the base, the locking mechanism being movable between a locked position in which the side and top panels are retained to the base by the locking mechanism, and an unlocked position in which the side and top panels are capable of being independently released from the base.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 16, wherein the rear plate comprises a plurality of fixing tabs extending therefrom and cooperatively defining a receiving space therebetween, and the locking mechanism comprises a locking bar movably received in the receiving space.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 17, wherein the rear plate defines a plurality of first locking slots, the engaging devices

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comprise a plurality of bent tabs extending from a side of the rear plate, and the locking bar defining a plurality of second locking slots corresponding to the first locking slots whereby when the locking bar is moved to the unlocked position, the bent tabs are allowed to extend through both the first and second locking slots and when the locking bar is moved to the locked position, the bent tabs engages with the second locking slots thereby securing the side panel in position.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The computer enclosure as claimed in claim 17, wherein the locking bar comprises a blocking portion spaced to the rear plate, and the latch devices of the top panel comprises a catch snappingly sandwiched between the rear plate and the blocking portion of the locking bar when the locking bar is located in the locked position.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer enclosure comprising:

a unitary base including a bottom plate with a rear plate extending upwardly therefrom, said base ~~defining a lengthwise axis~~ having a base lengthwise axis defined as perpendicular to said rear plate;

a vertical side panel releasably attached to the base along said lengthwise axis;

a generally horizontal top panel releasably attached to the base along said lengthwise axis; and

a locking mechanism attached to the base and vertically extending substantially along a corner ~~of~~ formed by said rear plate and said side panel, the locking mechanism being movable along a vertical direction perpendicular to said lengthwise axis, and between a locked position in which both the side and top panels are retained to the base by the locking mechanism and can not be moved along the lengthwise axis, and an unlocked position in which the side and top panels are capable of being independently released from the base

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along said lengthwise axis.